Violation of Airlines Rules

2675. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airlines bend rules to benefit Minister's wife as reported in the Indian Express dated the 15th August, 2002; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the persons, who got benefited under the amended airlines rules during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amended rules have insulted the senior Air Hostesses and caused unrest in the mind of seniors; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to set right the things?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Study on Aircraft Requirement

2676. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 400 aircrafts would be needed over the next twenty years;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) what will be the likely cost of the aircrafts and Government's share therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Although no formal study has been carried out by the Ministry/Directorate General of Civil Aviation have estimated that domestic and international air traffic is likely to grow @ 5% in the long term. On this basis, total traffic will increase by 2.65 times over the next twenty years.

At present both domestic and international scheduled operators in India have 139 aircraft on register. Going by the above estimates, India

would need about 369 aircraft over the next twenty years. It is not possible to state the likely cost as this will depend on the type of aircraft, market fluctuations etc.

Competition of IA with private companies

2677. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is facing tough competition from private companies like Air Sahara;

(b) whether Government are aware that Air Sahara is likely to add 22 new aircrafts to its fleet;

(c) whether Government are aware that the private airlines are giving better services and comforts to their passengers; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to streamline the working of Indian Airlines to enable it perform at economically viable level while competing with private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has recently permitted M/s. Air Sahara to import eight CRJ-200 (50 seater) and four CRJ-700 (70 seater) aircraft on dry lease basis.

M/s. Air Sahara has also submitted a proposal for import of two B-737-700 (136 seater) and two B-737-800 (168 seater) aircraft on dry lease basis.

(c) and (d)The performance and services provided by Indian Airlines is comparable in all respects to those of private airlines. Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to improve its financial and operational performance by optimizing utilization of its resources. Some of the measures taken by Indian Airlines in this regard are as under:—

(1) Comprehensive budgetary control system

(2) Cost benefit analysis

(3) Introduction of 'Flexi Fare Policy'

(4) Yield management/rationalization.